

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference M02B143/EJC	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/ 02907	International filing date (day/month/year) 04/07/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 05/07/2002
Applicant THE BOC GROUP PLC		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the International application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the International application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

/GB 03/02907

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 F04D5/00 F04D23/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F04D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 253 246 A (DOWTY DEFENCE & AIR SYST) 2 September 1992 (1992-09-02) page 15, paragraph 3 -page 17, paragraph 2; figure 6 ---	1-3,6-8
X	US 4 678 395 A (SCHWEINFURTER FRIEDRICH) 7 July 1987 (1987-07-07) column 4, line 14 - line 49; figure 2 ---	1-3,6-8
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 08, 29 September 1995 (1995-09-29) -& JP 07 127595 A (NIPPON SOKEN INC), 16 May 1995 (1995-05-16) abstract; figure 9 --- -/--	1-3,6-8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/10/2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

T/GB 03/02907

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 917 431 A (ROSE WILLIS EARL) 4 November 1975 (1975-11-04) column 4, line 58 -column 5, line 11; figure 7 -----	1,2,6-8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

GB 03/02907

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 2253246	A	02-09-1992	EP 0515632 A1 WO 9210681 A1 JP 5505011 T	02-12-1992 25-06-1992 29-07-1993
US 4678395	A	07-07-1987	DE 3427112 A1 AT 64772 T CS 8505362 A2 DD 237533 A5 DE 3583312 D1 EP 0170175 A2 JP 1911677 C JP 6031634 B JP 61087996 A	23-01-1986 15-07-1991 15-01-1988 16-07-1986 01-08-1991 05-02-1986 09-03-1995 27-04-1994 06-05-1986
JP 07127595	A	16-05-1995	NONE	
US 3917431	A	04-11-1975	BE 819401 A1 CA 1002386 A1 DE 2445157 A1 FR 2244088 A1 GB 1476518 A IT 1019236 B JP 50056606 A	16-12-1974 28-12-1976 20-03-1975 11-04-1975 16-06-1977 10-11-1977 17-05-1975